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REPORT NO.

FORMATION REPORT

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Formation of TKZS SUBJECT in Branipole

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- 1. A TKZS (Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo; Cooperative Labor Farm) was established in Branipole (RF-4994) in 1947. The TKZS was formed by means of pressure and fear exercised by the Communist authorities in the village.
- 2. Pressure was brought to bear not only on non-Communists but also on Communist Party members. An example is the arrest of Lyuben Krustev Filipov, a member of the Communist Party who was threatened with extermination if he did not join, and was actually held at pistol point.
- The TKZS took by force all the good, rich land, and left those farmers who did not join the TKZS land which was primarily rocky and very poor for cultivation. The designation of which land would be turned over to the TKZS and which land would be left in the hands of individual landowners was decided by the chief agriculturist of the department, Hristo Shipkov.
- 4. The TKZS comprises over 2,000 dekars of land. One-half of this land formerly belonged to the farm of the Catholic Church. The abbot in charge of the farm project was forced to sign over the Catholic ground to the TKZS and was immediately thereafter arrested by the State Security. The premises of the Catholic farm were bombed with hand grenades, and the wheat, chickens, and other possessions of the farm were looted by the Communists.
- 5. The government quotas for wheat, wool, milk, cotton, et cetera are so high that neither the TKZS nor the individual farmers are able to fill these quotas.

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